

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (New) A system for analyzing traffic data in a distributed computing environment, the distributed computing environment comprising a plurality of interconnected systems operatively coupled to a server, the server configured to receive hits from each interconnected system , comprising:

one or more results tables categorized by an associated data type, each results table comprising a plurality of records;

means for collecting each hit as access information into one such record in at least one results table according to the data type associated with the one such results table, each of the records in the results table corresponding to a different type of access information for the data type associated with the results table;

means for summarizing periodically the access information collected into the results tables during a time slice into analysis results, the time slice corresponding to a discrete reporting period; and

means for analyzing the access information from the results tables in the analysis results to form analysis summaries according to the data types associated with the results tables.

22. (New) A system according to claim 21, wherein each such interconnected system interfaces to the server via one of a network connection, a point-to-point connection and a dedicated connection.

23. (New) A system according to claim 21, wherein the server further comprises a log file operatively coupled to the server and storing the hits, the log file operating as a source of hits responsive to the collecting means.

24. (New) A system according to claim 21, wherein the server further comprises a database operatively coupled to the server and storing at least one of the hits and the analysis results, the database operating as a source of hits responsive to the collecting means.

25. (New) A system according to claim 21, further comprising:
a user session table comprising one or more records which each store a pointer, each pointer corresponding to one of the results tables, the collecting means including a user session count for each such data type associated with each such results table, the user session count being stored in the user session table in each of the records; and

one or more microtables, each of the microtables including one or more indices and being associated with one of the results tables, each such index within the microtable logically referring to each such different type of access information collected in the associated results table, each such pointer in the user session table further logically referring to one of the microtables, the analyzing means further comprising means for adjusting the user session count for consecutive time slices.

26. (New) A system according to claim 25, further comprising:
a container file comprising a table of contents and configured to store the one or more results tables, the user sessions table and the one or more microtables, the summarizing means further comprising means for mapping relative positions of each such results table within the container file into the table of contents and storing each such pointer in the user session table with the relative positions of each such microtable within the container file.

27. (New) A system according to claim 21 wherein said system further comprises a database for receiving and storing said hits.

28. (New) A method for analyzing traffic data in a distributed computing environment, the distributed computing environment comprising a plurality of interconnected systems operatively coupled to a server, one or more results tables categorized by an associated data type, each results table comprising a plurality of records, the server configured to receive hits from each interconnected system, each hit corresponding to a data packet sent to the server from one such interconnected system, the method comprising:

collecting each hit as access information into one such record in at least one results table according to the data type associated with the one such results table, each

of the records in the results table corresponding to a different type of access information for the data type associated with the results table;

summarizing periodically the access information collected into the results tables during a time slice into analysis results, the time slice corresponding to a discrete reporting period; and

analyzing the access information from the results tables in the analysis results to form analysis summaries according to the data types associated with the results tables.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising interfacing each such interconnected system to the server via one of a network connection, a point-to-point connection and a dedicated connection.

30. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising:
operatively coupling the server to a log file; and
storing the hits into a log file, the log file operating as a source of hits in collecting each hit.

31. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising:
operatively coupling the server to a database; and
storing at least one of the hits into a database, the database operating as a source of hits in collecting each hit.

32. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the distributed computing environment further comprises a user session table comprising one or more records which each store a pointer and one or more microtables, each pointer corresponding to one of the results tables, each of the microtables including one or more indices and being associated with one of the results tables, each such index within the microtable logically referring to each such different type of access information collected in the associated results table, each such pointer in the user session table further logically referring to one of the microtables, the method further comprising:

counting a user session for each such data type associated with each such results table;

storing the user session count stored in the user session table in each of the records; and

adjusting the user session count for consecutive time slices.

33. A method according to claim 32, the distributed computing environment further comprising a container file comprising a table of contents and configured to store the one or more results tables, the user sessions table and the one or more microtables, the method further comprising:

mapping relative positions of each such results table within the container file into the table of contents; and

storing each such pointer in the user session table with the relative positions of each such microtable within the container file.

34. A method according to claim 28, analyzing the access information further comprising:

defining a time frame comprising a discrete period of time; and

analyzing the analysis results for each such time slice occurring within the time frame based on availability of access information in the analysis results.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein analyzing the analysis results comprises one pass and wherein said method further comprises:

summarizing the access information available as analysis summaries in the analysis results;

summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring within the time frame whereby analysis summaries are not available but access information from the results table is available in the analysis results;

summarizing the analysis summaries formed in the preceding step;

collecting each hit and summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring in the time frame whereby analysis summaries and access information from the results table are not available in the analysis results; and
summarizing the analysis summaries formed in the preceding step.

36. A method according to claim 34 wherein analyzing the analysis results comprises two passes and wherein said method comprises:

summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring within the time frame whereby analysis summaries are not available but access information from the results table is available in the analysis results;

collecting each hit and summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring in the time frame whereby analysis summaries and access information from the results table are not available in the analysis results; and

summarizing the access information available as analysis summaries in the analysis results.

37. A method according to claim 28, further comprising storing each hit in a database.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein storing each hit in a database occurs before collecting each hit as access information.

39. A storage medium embodying computer-readable code for analyzing traffic data in a distributed computing environment, the distributed computing environment comprising a plurality of interconnected systems operatively coupled to a server, one or more results tables categorized by an associated data type, each results table comprising a plurality of records, the server configured to receive hits from each interconnected system, each hit corresponding to a data packet sent to the server from one such interconnected system, comprising:

means for collecting each hit as access information into one such record in at least one results table according to the data type associated with the one such results table, each of the records in the results table corresponding to a different type of access information for the data type associated with the results table;

means for summarizing periodically the access information collected into the results tables during a time slice into analysis results, the time slice corresponding to a discrete reporting period; and

means for analyzing the access information from the results tables in the analysis results to form analysis summaries according to the data types associated with the results tables.

40. A storage medium according to claim 39, wherein the distributed computing environment further comprises a user session table comprising one or more records which each store a pointer and one or more microtables, each pointer corresponding to one of the results tables, each of the microtables including one or more indices and being associated with one of the results tables, each such index within the microtable logically referring to each such different type of access information collected in the associated results table, each such pointer in the user session table further logically referring to one of the microtables, further comprising:

- means for counting a user session for each such data type associated with each such results table;
- means for storing the user session count stored in the user session table in each of the records; and
- means for adjusting the user session count for consecutive time slices.

41. A storage medium according to claim 39, the means for analyzing the access information further comprising:

- means for defining a time frame comprising a discrete period of time; and
- means for analyzing the analysis results for each such time slice occurring within the time frame based on availability of access information in the analysis results.

42. A storage medium according to claim 39, the means for analyzing the analysis results comprising one pass and further comprising:

- means for summarizing the access information available as analysis summaries in the analysis results;
- means for summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring within the time frame whereby analysis summaries are not available but access information from the results table is available in the analysis results;
- means for summarizing the analysis summaries formed in the preceding step;
- means for collecting each hit and summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring in the time frame whereby analysis summaries and access information from the results table are not available in the analysis results; and
- means for summarizing the analysis summaries formed in the preceding step.

43. A storage medium according to claim 39, the means for analyzing the analysis results comprising two passes and further comprising:

means for summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring within the time frame whereby analysis summaries are not available but access information from the results table is available in the analysis results;

means for collecting each hit and summarizing periodically the access information for each such time slice occurring in the time frame whereby analysis summaries and access information from the results table are not available in the analysis results; and

means for summarizing the access information available as analysis summaries in the analysis results.

44. A storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising a database for receiving each hit and wherein said hit is collected as access information from said database.

45. A method for analyzing access information in a distributed computing environment, the method comprising:

- (a) collecting a plurality of hits including access information;
- (b) summarizing the collected access information;
- (c) creating analysis results from the collected access information;
- (d) storing the analysis results;
- (e) periodically repeating steps (a) through (d);
- (f) defining a predetermined time frame; and
- (g) generating an analysis summary from the stored analysis results for the predetermined time frame.

46. The method of claim 45 in which collecting hits comprises collecting the hits from a single traffic source.

47. The method of claim 45 in which collecting hits comprises collecting the hits from a plurality of sources.

48. The method of claim 45 wherein the predetermined time frame spans at least a portion of only one period.

49. The method of claim 45 wherein the predetermined time frame spans at least portions of at least two periods.

50. The method of claim 45 further comprising:
storing the analysis summary;
defining a second predetermined time frame different from the first;
inventorying the stored analysis summary; and
using information in the stored analysis summary to generate at least a portion of an analysis summary for the second predetermined time frame.

51. The method of claim 45 further comprising adjusting the analysis summaries where access information is counted more than once.

52. The method of claim 45 in which summarizing collected access information comprises summarizing the collected access information by type.

53. The method of claim 45 wherein storing the analysis results further comprises storing the analysis results in a container file.

54. The method of claim 53 in which storing the analysis results in a container file comprises creating one or more results tables differentiated by one or more data types.

55. The method of claim 54 in which creating one or more results tables further comprises creating records in the one or more results tables.

56. The method of claim 45 wherein said method further comprises storing the hits in a database.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein said method further comprises storing the hits in a database between steps (a) and (b).